

Alethea Giles (Macquarie University) in the office of Rep. JERROLD NADLER of New York; Sana Nakata (Melbourne University) in the office of Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida; Yvonne Oberhollenzer (University of Queensland) in the office of Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California; Lauren Reed (Deakin University) in the office of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, minority; Peita Richards (Macquarie University) in the office of the House Administration Committee, minority; Anthony Skews (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Science Committee, majority; Luke Toy (University of Canberra) in the office of Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut; and, Ariella Webb (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Small Business Committee, majority.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to our Australian friends for their unbridled enthusiasm, tireless work ethic, and friendship over these past two months. The relationships we have forged here will last a lifetime, and it is my sincere hope that every congressional office partake in a similar endeavor.

#### HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor Frederick Douglass, a great advocate of human rights. The Caring Institute along with the National Park Service is celebrating the 187th birthday of Frederick Douglass with an event called "Honoring Frederick Douglass: A Celebration of Black History." The celebration was held at Ford's Theatre on February 14.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery, and after eventually buying his freedom he went on to become a popular orator, author and publisher. He fought against discrimination of all types throughout his lifetime. Mr. Douglass played a great role in bringing about the abolition of slavery in America. He worked for women's rights as well, stating, "I would give women the vote, precisely as I insisted upon giving the colored man the right to vote. Right is of no sex—truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all and we are all brethren." Toward the end of his life, Mr. Douglass served as a recorder of deeds and marshal for the District of Columbia and also as an ambassador to Haiti.

I encourage my colleagues to remember this great man during this month honoring those who have played such an important part in our Nation's history.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to vote February 8 through February 10 of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 20 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 21 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 22 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 23 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 24 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 25 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 26 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 27 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 28 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 29 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 30 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 31 I would have voted "no."

#### INTRODUCTION OF BIKE COMMUTER ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman MARK FOLEY and I are introducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation covered by the qualified transportation fringe benefit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transportation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take advantage of this program may receive a tax exemption benefit totaling \$200 for participating in qualified parking plans or \$105 for transit or van-pool expenses. Employees may also opt to take cash compensation instead, which is subject to employment taxes. The Bike Commuter Act would extend these same Transportation Fringe Benefits to employees who choose to commute by bicycle, eliminating the disincentive for this alternative mode of transportation.

It's time to level the playing field for bicycle commuters. Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exist today. Nearly 500,000 Americans already ride their bicycles to work on a daily basis, and 52 percent of Americans want to bike more than they do. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation, demonstrating their significant potential for commuter use. Many Americans own one or more bicycles, but limit their use to recreational purposes. At a time when communities across the country are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, increase the safety of their neighborhoods, and decrease petroleum dependence, bicycles offer a wonderful alternative to driving for the more than 50 percent of the working population who commute five miles or less to work. In addition, since the adoption of ISTEA in 1991, Federal spending on bicycle facilities and infrastructure has increased dramatically, contributing to a significant improvement in the bicycling environment in a variety of communities.

This legislation is an important step in making the Federal Government a better partner for more livable communities. The Federal Government should further support these goals by providing transportation benefits to people who choose to commute in a healthy,

environmental, efficient and neighborhood-friendly fashion.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WILSON HARLEY, ESQ.

**HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a woman I am proud to represent in Congress, Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq. Ms. Harley was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award on February 15, 2005.

It is only fitting that Joyce Wilson Harley be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for she has a long career of dedication to public service.

Joyce's recognition today as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award is quite appropriate. As the first African American elected to the Board of Trustees for the Village of South Orange, Joyce has been a leader and a role model in the African-American community.

After completing her honors degree at the Douglass College of Rutgers University, Joyce went on to complete her Juris Doctorate at Rutgers Law School. In addition to serving as a Village Trustee in South Orange, Joyce was also elected Village President.

Prior to assuming her current position as Executive Director of the Newark Downtown District, Joyce has held numerous positions in the area of community and neighborhood development. One of her most prominent roles was during her tenure as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Multi City Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Under her leadership, NJ LISC expanded its investment in the 14 municipalities it serves to twice its original size.

Ms. Harley's devotion to community development extends far beyond simply completing the task at hand. Her efforts were instrumental in the state of New Jersey implementing a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit law. This law brings \$20 million in new investment in New Jersey's most distressed cities.

Beyond her post with the Newark Downtown District, Joyce also donates her time for other worthy projects. She is currently the president of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Emergency Services for Families. Ms. Harley is also a past president of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I am far from the first to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Harley. In addition to receiving numerous awards for her work as the Director of Community Development for First Union and Fleet Banks, Joyce has also been recognized twice by the New Jersey State Legislature.

The New Jersey State Council on the Humanities awarded Joyce its first ever Civic Leadership award. In 2003 the Women in Support of the Million Man March awarded Joyce the coveted Community Relations award for her leadership in facilitating the receipt of financial assistance by community groups throughout the state in order to complete much needed neighborhood revitalization projects.